**Joint venture to manufacture ICF design fabricated coaches**

3148. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a proposal to set up a joint venture company with Steel Industries Kerala Ltd., Alleppey, a public sector undertaking of the Government of Kerala, to manufacture ICF design fabricated bogies for passenger coaches was under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details and present status of the project proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action is being taken to form a Joint Venture Company under companies' Act 1956, between Ministry of Railways (MoR) and Government of Kerala (GoK) for manufacture of Railway coach and wagon components by utilizing the assets of Steel Industries Kerala Limited (SILK) and its subsidiary, M/s Autokast.

**Survey of Nanjancode to Nilambur rail route**

3149. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for the construction of Nanjancode of Karnataka to Nilambur of Kerala railway route *via* Sultan Bathery in Wayanad at Gudalloor Road of Tamil Nadu is in progress; and

(b) if so, when the survey was started, by when it is proposed to be completed, and the budgetary allocation made in the budgets since the survey was started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) An updating survey for Nanjangud-Nilambur *via* Sultan Bathery and Gudallur was taken up and completed during 2007-08 and its report further updated in February, 2009. An outlay of Rs. 12.7 lakh has been provided for this survey so far.

**Rail connectivity to ports**

3150. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified nine ports in the country under the National Maritime Development Programme for the development of coastal shipping and whether Azhikkal and Vizhingam ports in Kerala are included in these nine ports; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to provide rail connectivity to these ports?